ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SHELBY MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

MOUNT CALVARY CHURCH,

SHELBY COUNTY, ALA.,

October 7 and 9, 1882.

OFFICERS:

ELDER T. P. HOLCOMBE, - - - - - - - - - - - MODERATOR.
ELDER C. W. O'HARA, - - - - - - - - - - - - - SECRETARY.

The next session will be held with Calera church, in the town of Calera, commencing on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1883.

SELMA, ALA.:
JOHN L. WEST & CO., PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS.
1882.

MINUTES.

On Saturday, the 7th day of October, 1882, the Shelby Missionary Baptist Association convened with Mt. Calvary church.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder C. W. O'Hara from Acts 4:13.

After an intermission of one hour the delegates assembled in the church and were called to order by the former Moderator, Elder T. P. Holcombe.

Prayer was offered by Elder J. D. Mills.

Brethren J. L. Peters and J. C. McElroy were appointed to read.

Letters from the churches were called for, received, read and the names of delegates enrolled, as follows:

Cahaba Valley—Not represented.
Dogwood Grove—J. D. Mills,* Leroy Lovelady.
Mar's Hill—R. B. Hall,* G. W. Smith.
New Antioch—Not represented.
Six Mile—W. V. Arnold, J. L. Peters, Kirby Ward.
Union—Wm. Johnson, W. C. West.
Beaver Creek—Wm. Seale.
Columbiana—E. B. Teague, R. Z. Hill.
Hopewell—T. J. Wells.
Mt. Calvary—Nathaniel Thomas, N. M. Thomas, T. G. Evans, C. L. Mooney.
Liberty—T. P. Holcombe,* J. D. Martin,† J. A. Adams, J. W. Dodson, L. R. Kendrick, J. F. Crane, J. T. Wilder.
Rocky Ridge—J. W. Wood,* King Davis, J. H. Davis, J. R. Davis.
Summerhill—C. W. O'Hara,* M. E. B. Jones, W. H. Connell.

Ordained Ministers marked with a * ; Licentiates with a †.

Petitionary letters were called for, when a letter was presented from Calera Baptist church, by J. C. McElroy and H. W. Parker. The church being found orthodox was received, the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship.

Two letters were presented from Bethesda church (which was dropped two years, owing to the church's being in disorder); one borne by J. C. Lyon and Jesse Stone; the other by J. M. Crenshaw and J. R. Ray; whereupon a committee consisting of one from each church was appointed to investigate the matter and report to the Association during the sitting of this body. The committee was composed of the following delegates: J. W. Dodson, Nathaniel Thomas, W. E. Seale, J. D. Mills, R. B. Hall, W. V. Arnold, W. J. Johnson, R. Z. Hill, M. E. B. Jones, T. J. Wells, J. W. Wood, J. C. McElroy.

The Association then proceeded to permanent organization. The former Moderator and Secretary were again chosen to their respective offices by acclamation.

The order of business of the last session was adopted for the present session.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

On Devotion—Nathaniel Thomas, 2d District; W. V. Arnold, 1st District, with the pastor and deacons of Mt. Calvary church.

On Documents—R. B. Hall, J. D. Mills, J. W. Wood.

On Finance—J. L. Peters, M. E. B. Jones.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Missions—E. B. Teague, J. C. McElroy, M. E. B. Jones.

On Temperance—J. L. Peters, W. H. Connell, J. F. Crane.

On Sunday Schools—J. D. Martin, N. Thomas, M. E. B. Jones.

Correspondence was called for, when brethren J. B. Fluker, R. B. Posey and Milton Henderson presented themselves as messengers from the Coosa River Association. They were welcomed among us, the Moderator extending to them the hand of fellowship.

CORRESPONDENCE RETURNED.

To the Mulberry—E. B. Teague, J. C. McElroy, W. V. Arnold.

To the Canaan—R. B. Hall, J. D. Mills, Geo. T. Lee.

To the Coosa River—J. D. Martin, E. B. Teague, C. W. O'Hara, J. W. Wood, W. H. Connell.

Resolved, That any member of this Association who may be present at the sitting of any of our sister Associations, or State Convention, may present himself as a messenger from this Association.

Resolved, That a collection be taken up on Sunday, after the preaching of the missionary sermon, for missions, to be appropriated as the Association may direct, except where the donors may designate the object.

Inasmuch as Sunday night was set apart, by an act of the last Association, for a missionary mass meeting, therefore

Resolved, That the meeting be opened by prayer, and immediately thereafter the question box be opened for the reception of such queries as may be propounded in reference to missions.

A committee of five was appointed to nominate delegates to the State Convention, viz: E. B. Teague, J. L. Peters, H. W. Parker, J. A. Adams and M. E. B. Jones.

Prayer by Elder E. B. Teague.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY, October 8, 1882.

The services were conducted in the order prescribed by the Committee on Devotion: Prayer meeting at 9:30 A. M., conducted by M. E. B. Jones; Missionary sermon at 11 A. M., by Elder E. B. Teague, from the 5th verse of the 2d chapter of Philippians, after which a collection was taken up, the amount of which will be found in the report of the Committee on Finance; preaching at 4:30 P. M., by Elder J. D. Mills, from the 15th verse of the 14th chapter of St. Mark.

At 7 P. M. the mass meeting convened. Elder R. B. Hall was called to the chair.

Prayer was offered by the Chairman, after which he set forth at length the object of the meeting.

Four queries were presented and discussed in the order they here appear.

First. Would it not be a successful means of furthering the missionary cause for each church to have a missionary box and on each monthly meeting day give every one an opportunity to contribute to the cause?

This was discussed by C. W. O'Hara, J. D. Martin, J. C. McElroy and E. B. Teague, after which Bro. C. W. O'Hara moved the following answer:

That it might be a successful means in some places, but that would be owing to the surroundings, but the subject should be frequently put before the people. Adopted.

Second. Would it be considered missionary work to aid in the support of worn-out ministers? Does the Scripture teach it thus?

Third. Should missions be sent to the heathen and our aged and infirm ministers be neglected or their widows and orphans be passed by?

The second and third were combined and discussed by E. B. Teague, J. C. McElroy, C. W. O'Hara, J. W. Wood and J. D. Martin, after which Bro. E. B. Teague moved the following answer in reference to the latter:

"This ought ye to have done and not to have left the other undone." Adopted.

Fourth. What should be done, in relation to missions, in our bounds?

This was discussed by J. D. Martin, C. W. O'Hara, J. W. Wood and J. W. Dodson.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

R. B. HALL, Chairman.

C. W. O'HARA, Secretary.

MONDAY, October 9, 1882.

The Association met at 9:30 A. M. Prayer by Elder J. W. Wood. Minutes of Saturday were read. The roll was called and absentees dropped.

On motion, the reading of the Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum was dispensed with.

On motion, it was ordered that the minutes of the missionary mass meeting be entered on the minutes.

On motion, it was ordered that the Committee on Devotion appoint some one to preach the Introductory sermon and some one to preach the Missionary sermon at our next session.

The report of the Committee on Missions was read, whereupon Elder E. B. Teague addressed the Association in the interest of the State Board, after which the report was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Missions, beg leave to report some of the results of the mission work under the management of the Southern Baptist Convention, for the year ending May, 1882.

The work surpasses, in many important respects, any previous year. Brazil, in South America, appears to be the most inviting field abroad. A colporteur when questioned in relation to the opening there, said that fifty missionaries would not be a drop in the bucket. Statistics of Santa Barbara Station and Campinas, are as follows: Baptized, 10; membership, 53; contributions, $125.

Missionaries, W. B. Bagby, Mrs. Bagby and J. C. Taylor. China missions—Missionaries: At Tung Chow, T. P. Crawford and others. At Shanghai, M. T. Yates, Mrs. Yates and several native assistants. At Canton, R. H. Graves, Mrs. Graves, and others, assisted by twelve natives and Bible women. Statistics: Baptized, 43; membership, 541; pupils, 225; Contributions, $527.83. Our space is too limited to mention all the important fields; but we must say, that the success with which the Gospel has met abroad, is sufficient to cause every one to co-operate with zeal in the work.

HOME MISSIONS.

The Board has many things to encourage it. Missions to the Chinese in California; Indian missions and missions to the cities, especially that of New Orleans (a city containing about 112,000 Catholics), together with the great good that the Board has and can accomplish, with proper assistance, should enlist the feelings and contributions of every Baptist in the South. The Board requires about $100,000 to fully occupy its fields.

STATE MISSION WORK.

Thirty-five missionaries, 125 stations, 923 weeks of service, 3,294 sermons preached, 3,018 visits, 526 persons baptized, 8 churches organized, 71 Sunday schools organized. $10,027.14 contributed by churches, $8,895.74 expended on field, $1,121.40 expense of work, $10,027.14 total for State work.

As for mission work in our bounds, by our Association, we are simply doing nothing. A work to be on a safe basis should, we think, begin at home.

Every tree bringeth forth fruit after its kind. We believe that every like begets its like.

If we would have our people become enthusiastic on the subject of missions, let us demonstate its power and influence in our midst, by encouraging faithful missionary work in our bounds.

To say that there are communities in our bounds, that are almost without missionary influence, is beyond dispute.

We would recommend the Association to faithfully consider this question.

It is a noticeable fact, that where missionary work has been carried on successfully there is the place to raise contributions for missionary purposes.

In proof of missionary work being an Apostolic plan, we invite the attention of the readers of this report to the 13th and 14th chapters of the Acts.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES D. MARTIN, Chairman.

Calera Baptist church petitioned that the next session of this Association be held with her. On motion, it was so ordered.

The report of Committee on Sunday Schools was read, and after some discussion by J. L. Peters and J. D. Martin, was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

To the Shelby Association, sitting with Mt. Calvary Church:

We, the undersigned committee, having been appointed by this body, at its last session, to report the condition and prospects of Sabbath Schools, in our bounds, beg leave to submit the following as our report:

We have examined the letters and statements made by delegates from the different churches, and find that Sabbath Schools have been organized and are in successful operation in some of the churches, and a few bring cheering reports of the good that has been and is being accomplished through this instrumentality. But we find that a number of churches, at least eight, out of the sixteen now composing this Association, have done little or nothing in this department of

Christian effort. Judging from the reports made in the letters, of the condition of Sunday Schools, we must say there is great need of work on the part of our brethren in all parts of the Association, upon this subject. This department of our work doubtless must be recognized as one of greater magnitude and importance than it has hitherto been. We cannot be too urgent in pressing upon the churches the necessity of immediate and vigorous action in this field of labor. Its demands upon us are felt when we see the untold good resulting from them wherever Sunday Schools are properly organized and conducted. Let every church throughout the Association establish and perpetuate, as far as they are able, a working Sabbath School, and the future will bring to us a rich harvest of fruit as the result. We would recommend that a resolution be adopted by the Association, providing for the holding of Sunday School conventions within our bounds, for the purpose of organizing schools upon a basis consistent with Baptist principles, and providing schools with Baptist literature. We feel that the needs of the denomination demand some action, upon the part of the churches, in this direction, as we have already submitted too quietly to the petty difficulties which are constantly being urged to the formation and progress of Sunday Schools. Respectfully submitted,

W. V. ARNOLD, Chairman.

Resolved, That delegates, such number as each church may appoint, be recommended to meet in Sunday School Convention on the first 5th Sabbath in 1883, to devise means of promoting that interest.

After some discussion, Six Mile church was designated as the place and the first 5th Sabbath, and Saturday before, in 1883, for holding said convention.

The report of the Committee on Temperance was read, and discussed by Elders E. B. Teague and C. W. O'Hara, after which it was adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance submit the following report: We are gratified to see the interest that is taken among all classes to put a stop to the traffic and use, as a beverage, of alcoholic and malt liquors in every community within the bounds of Shelby Association. Where the question of prohibition has come before the people the monster has been trampled under foot. In one community, where a large proportion of the voters were laborers, eleven-twelfths of the votes cast were for prohibition. We commend our brethren for what they have done, and request that they continue the good work until the evil be driven beyond the borders of our State.

Respectfully submitted, GEO. T. LEE, Ch'n.

The report of the Committee on Finance was read and adopted.

FINANCE REPORT.

Amount paid for missions during the year by Liberty church		$ 6 50
" " " " " " " " Montevallo Sunday school.		5 00
Total amount paid for missions during the year		$ 11 50
Amount sent up for Minutes	$ 18 90	
" " " " Associational purposes	6 75	
" " " " Foreign Missions	18 55	
" collected on Sunday for Foreign Missions	14 20	
Total		$ 58 40

Respectfully submitted,

M. E. B. JONES, } *Committee.*
J. L. PETERS, }

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

To amount of balance in treasury			$ 5 45
" " received from Committee on Finance			58 40
Total			$ 63 85
By amount paid for Minutes	$ 15 00		
" " " Secretary	10 00		
" " " Foreign Mission Board	32 75		
" " " for postage for 1881	45		$ 63 20
Balance			$ 65

C. W. O'HARA, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

It was ordered that the amount collected on Sunday be paid over to the Foreign Mission Board.

It was ordered that the Secretary have 330 copies of these Minutes printed, reserve thirty copies for correspondence, and that he receive $10.00 for his services.

The committee to nominate delegates to the State Convention reported the following names: J. L. Peters, J. D. Martin, R. B. Hall, J. D. Mills, J. W. Dodson, Nathaniel Thomas, H. C. Reynolds, W. H. Connell, M. E. B. Jones. Adopted.

On motion, it was ordered that the Constitution and Abstract of Principles be printed with the Minutes.

The committee to whom was referred the matter in relation to Bethesda church submitted the following report:

We, your committee to whom was referred the matter of Bethesda church, beg leave to submit the following report:

DEAR BRETHREN: While we deplore the condition of said church, after investigating the same, we conclude that the best solution of the troubles would be to recognize the principles and platform adopted and here represented by J. C. Lyon, J. N. Lyon and Jesse Stone.

We therefore recommend that these brethren be granted seats in this Association as delegates and as representatives of Bethesda church.

Respectfully,

R. B. HALL,	J. C. MCELROY,	W. J. JOHNSON,
J. D. MILLS,	R. Z. HILL,	J. W. WOOD,
M. E. B. JONES,	W. E. SEALE,	T. J. WELLS,

NATHANIEL THOMAS, W. V. ARNOLD.

The Committee on Devotion reported that Geo. T. Lee would preach the Introductory sermon at the next session, J. D. Mills alternate; I. U. Wilkes the Missionary sermon, E. B. Teague alternate.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are returned to the good people of Mt. Calvary church and vicinity for the kindness and hospitality which the Association has received at their hands during the sitting of this body.

After singing a hymn, while the delegates extended to each other and the congregation the parting hand, and prayer by Elder E. B. Teague, the Association adjourned *sine die*.

T. P. HOLCOMBE, Moderator.

C. W. O'HARA, Secretary.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. The members who are regularly chosen by the churches in our union shall compose the Association; but in making appointments or assigning duties to be performed, it shall be constitutional for the Association to appoint to any such duty any ordained minister in the bounds of the Association, or belonging to any church in the body, though said minister be not a delegate to this body.

II. The members so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with the state of their church since their last representation.

III. The members thus chosen and convened shall be called THE SHELBY ASSOCIATION OF BAPTIST CHURCHES.

IV. This Association shall sit as an advisory council, and shall have no power to "lord it over God's heritage," nor infringe on the internal rights of the churches, but shall have power to exclude from the union any church not orthodox in principles, according to the Scriptures, or who fails to represent herself at one Association and refuses to account for it at the next.

V. If one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction; and if she fail of success she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches, to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if satisfaction cannot be obtained it shall be the duty of the aggrieved church to lay the matter before the Association, to be decided on according to its merits; and if a serious difficulty should arise in an individual church, which, after due labor, she cannot reconcile, she shall call to her aid two or more sister churches, of her union, to assist in the work; and if the difficulty be not then removed it shall be the duty of the church to bring the matter to the Association, to be acted on as above prescribed. But the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued.

VI. Any church desiring admittance into this union, shall petition by letter and messengers, and, if found orthodox, shall be received by the Association, through the Moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

VII. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates, and one for every twenty-five over fifty, or fractional part thereof.

VIII. Any church in our union shall have power to license and ordain members to preach the Gospel, and report the same to our next session, and in all cases of ordination we recommend a presbytery of two or more, and report to the next Association.

IX. No query of a disciplinary character shall be taken under consideration in the Association except when cases of serious difficulty arise and cannot be settled by the church, nor by other churches, which they shall call upon for aid; then, if not settled, they may send it to the Association. But any member of this body may introduce a query, when its settlement tends to the peace, harmony and welfare of the churches.

X. This Association may correspond with any benevolent Baptist institution she may deem expedient.

XI. This Association shall have power to elect a Moderator and Clerk, from the messengers of churches represented; or, if deemed expedient, from among the ministers of the Association.

XII. Any amendment may be made to this plan or form of Constitution when two-thirds of the Association may deem it expedient.

XIII. Any church wishing a letter of dismission shall make application therefor by letter.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

ARTICLE I. We believe that there is only one true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

II We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God, and the only proper rule of faith and practice.

III. We believe that election is the gracious and eternal purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that, being consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means, in connection with the ends; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it is ascertained by its effect on all who believe the Gospel, is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

IV. We believe in the doctrine of original sin, and that man is incapable of recovering himself from the fallen state he is in, by nature, by his own free will and ability.

V. We believe that sinners are justified, in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

VI. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that believers are the only proper subjects of the ordinances, and that immersion, only, is Christian Baptism.

VII. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the impenitent sinner will be eternal.

VIII. We believe that no minister of the Gospel should administer the ordinances, only such as are called, and have come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery, and are in full fellowship with the churches of which they are members.

IX. We believe that none but regularly baptized persons have a scriptural right to take of the Lord's Supper.

X. We believe that the saints shall be preserved in grace, and never finally fall away.